

Testimony of Michelle Monticello, MD 9/14/23

Good morning Chair Rogers and other members of this committee. My name is Michelle Monticello and I am a licensed, board certified obstetrician and gynecologist, practicing in central Michigan since 1995. Thank you for allowing me to speak to you today about the grave concerns I have about the Reproductive Health care Act. I am here to represent myself and other physicians dedicated to providing safe, quality healthcare to women in our state.

Since 1993 our state law has mandated Informed Consent for abortion procedures. The American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology concurs with providing Informed Consent in their Committee Opinion #439. Simply put, this requires that a woman is told in basic terms how the abortion procedure will be performed, the more common complications that can occur from the surgical procedure or from the medications used to complete the abortion and what might be required to correct or fix those complications and what may result in a permanent injury. It also may include what to expect afterwards and how to get help if she is having problems.

It is not overly burdensome for a physician or a physician's assistant to review this most basic information with a patient prior to their procedure. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services even provides an on-line consent form that a patient can access, review and sign 24 hours prior to her planned procedure. This waiting period

allows her to consider the risks and ask additional questions if needed before proceeding.

In 2013 additional protection was added for women that required asking questions to screen for coercion or force to have an abortion which is considered a form of abuse. This helps ensure women are making this decision for themselves.

In my opinion, providing informed consent and protection against coercion are the minimum standards in providing women with good quality medical care. To do less is unethical. Women in the State of Michigan have a Right to Know this information in order to make medical decisions for themselves.

To repeal these most basic protections in women's healthcare by taking away their Right to Know, places their health and well being at risk, which would be unjustifiable. I urge you to vote no on this current proposal.

Thank you for your time.